



## **Award-winning Canadian filmmaker pays homage to her Jamaican-Chinese roots**

(Sept 21, 2021): Jiang Media Inc. is pleased to announce the completion of *A Brief Record of My Father's Time at Sea*, the latest feature-length documentary from Toronto-based Hakka filmmaker, Jeanette Kong. Several years in the making, this deeply personal account of the filmmaker's mixed heritage is in many ways the quintessential immigrant story.

In 1949, Kong's father, Keith Kong, left his rural Chinese village to sail halfway around the globe and settle in Kingston Jamaica. Twenty-five years later, he and his family immigrated—yet again—to Toronto, Canada. Part personal memoir and part archival history, this film seamlessly blends past and present to paint a loving portrait of courage, resilience and sacrifice.

Central to the film's artistry are its journal sections: first-person accounts written by Kong's father during his immigration journey. Narrated in the Hakka language, these chapters reveal a richly crafted collage of vintage footage, photos and graphics set to original music. "I discovered a whole new side of my dad through his journal," says Kong. "What a joy to discover that the father I knew was so eloquent and full of hope as a young man." Inspired by her father's words, the filmmaker travels to several far-flung places to reconnect with extended family and the legacy of her father's choices is revealed.

As a Jamaican-born, Chinese-Canadian documentarian, Kong has produced and directed several acclaimed films about the Chinese in Jamaica. Her 2014 commissioned feature *Finding Samuel Lowe: From Harlem to China* aired on the Africa Channel and was shortlisted for Best Diaspora Documentary at the 2014 Africa Movie Academy Awards. It was also the opening night gala at the 2015 Reelworld Film Festival where it won the ReelChoice Audience Award. Her short films —*The Chiney Shop* and *Half: The Story of a Chinese-Jamaican Son*—screened at several film festivals and were chosen by the Institute of Jamaica to commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Arrival of the Chinese to Jamaica.

"I make documentaries about the Hakka in Jamaica because there's such a rich history to record and until recently few people were doing it," says Kong. "It's my personal mission to convey this history so that subsequent generations will understand how they came to exist and have a testament of their past."

At its heart, *A Brief Record of My Father's Time at Sea* is about family ties and a daughter's love. Kong's most personal film to date is movingly narrated by the filmmaker.

Kong gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council and Canadian Media Fund in the realization of this film.

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